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(54) **METHOD FOR NODE RANKING IN A LINKED DATABASE**

(75) Inventor: **Lawrence Page**, Stanford, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **The Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University**, Stanford, CA (US)

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(58) **Field of Search** 707/100, 5, 7, 707/513, 1–3, 10, 104, 501; 345/440; 382/226, 229, 230, 231

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Primary Examiner—Thomas Black
Assistant Examiner—Uyen Le
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Harrity & Snyder L.L.P.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method assigns importance ranks to nodes in a linked database, such as any database of documents containing citations, the world wide web or any other hypermedia database. The rank assigned to a document is calculated from the ranks of documents citing it. In addition, the rank of a document is calculated from a constant representing the probability that a browser through the database will randomly jump to the document. The method is particularly useful in enhancing the performance of search engine results for hypermedia databases, such as the world wide web, whose documents have a large variation in quality.

29 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets